

**Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee**  
Judicial Conference of Indiana

**Minutes**  
March 7, 2003

The Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee of the Judicial Conference of Indiana met at the Indiana Judicial Center on Friday, March 7, 2003 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 p.m.

1. Members present. Robert R. Aylsworth, Mary Beth Bonaventura, W. Timothy Crowley, Mary R. Harper, Stephen R. Heimann, James R. Heuer, Lynn Murray, James W. Payne, Daniel L. Pflum, R. Paulette Stagg, Viola J. Taliaferro and Stephen R. Sims, Chair.
2. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting on March 7, 2003 were approved.
3. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz and Anne Jordan provided the committee with staff assistance.
4. Guests present. Charlene S. Burkett-Sims, Deputy Director, DFC and Sandra A. Lock, DFC liaison to ICWIS, Tim Orient and Tricia Blender, Unisys, ICWIS project; and Kurt Snyder, Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology, Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, (JTAC) Division of State Court Administration.
5. Governor's Commission on Juvenile Law.
  - a. Jeff Bercovitz distributed materials handed out at the first meeting of the Commission held on Thursday, February 27.
  - b. Judge Taliaferro gave a report on the topics discussed at the meeting. She urged committee members to think about juvenile statutes and give her examples of what works and what does not work to take back to the Commission.
6. Presentation by Sandy Lock. Sandy Lock, DFC liaison to the Indiana Child Welfare Information System, (ICWIS) gave an overview of ICWIS. Tricia Blender gave a power point presentation to show the information kept on ICWIS. Committee members discussed the availability of a child placement history report as part of a child's case plan in addition to other ICWIS issues.
7. Annual Meeting of Juvenile Court Judges. Anne Jordan gave an overview of the theme of this year's conference: The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of juvenile courts in Indiana. The conference would review where juvenile courts have been, where they are (including innovative programs) and where they are going. It will be held June 19-20 at the Brown County Inn in Nashville, Indiana. The members of the committee gave the following ideas in connection with the conference theme:
  - a. Holding a press conference in Brown County, giving a proposed press release to each juvenile judge, and encouraging him or her to talk to the local press.
  - b. Inviting Ed Latessa to discuss the evaluation of programs, how to establish goals and use of objective criteria to measure outcomes
  - c. Review of the following innovative programs: Electronic monitoring of juveniles, juvenile community corrections programs funded by DOC, mentoring programs, juvenile drug

court programs, teen courts, intensive day reporting, repeat offenders, juvenile after school programs, parental involvement participation program in Monroe County, anger replacement programs, truancy courts, handling of first time status offenders, first time shoplifters, and gender specific programs.

8. Recent legislation. Jeff Bercovitz distributed selected portions of House Bill 1001. He distributed House Bills 1253, 1268, 1525, 1561, 1567, 1701, 1768, and Senate Bills 28, 36, 62, 227 and 506 and recent newspaper articles. Committee members agreed that Judge Heimann should contact the Association of Indiana Counties on behalf of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges about HB 1006. In addition, the committee agreed to send a representative to the legislative hearing to oppose SB 227, which permits long-term foster parents to be parties in juvenile cases.

9. Recent juvenile cases.

a. Jeff Bercovitz distributed the following cases to committee members: C.T.S. v. State, 49A02-0206-JV-439, 781 N.E.2d 1193 (Ind. Ct. App. 2003), 2003 Ind. App. LEXIS 94, E.L. v. State, 49A02-0206-JV-449, 2003 Ind. App. LEXIS 209, M.J.H. v. State, 49A02-0206-JV-500, 2003 Ind. App. LEXIS 216, D.P. v. State, 49A02-0207-JV-546, 2003 Ind. App. LEXIS 218.

b. Judge Payne reported his juvenile court was reversed in each case. The committee members agreed to recommend the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges file an *amicus* brief for the C.T.S. case.

10. Presentation by Kurt Snyder. Kurt Snyder, Director and Counsel of Trial Court Technology, JTAC, gave an overview of the juvenile case management system. He wants to modernize juvenile benchbooks with links to other systems, search links and placing the forms in a PDF format. He reported he needs committees to be a “guinea pig” for portal technology. He asked for ideas in the link between the juvenile case management system and ICWIS at FSSA also. Committee members recommended the following: (1) Judges and probation should have the ability to see ICWIS screens; (2) judges should have the ability to send court orders to ICWIS, and (3) judges should be able to see ISETS screens. Judge Sims noted there is a host computer between ICWIS and local OFC’s that may slow down the exchange of information.

11. IARCCA MRO training dates. Jeff Bercovitz distributed the Medicaid Rehabilitation Option (MRO) training dates by the Indiana Association of Residential Child Care Agencies.

12. Next meeting dates. The committee members agreed to meet on May 2, 2003 and June 6, 2003 all on Friday from 12:00 noon - 3:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center. He distributed proposed meeting dates: September 10, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon and November 7, 2003 from 12:00 noon – 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director  
Juvenile and Family Law